

I call on the White House to provide necessary support for law enforcement, at all levels, to track down these criminals and their networks. This is a fight we cannot lose. It is too close to home. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives in these attacks.

□ 1215

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, America needs health care reform, but America knows that this is not the right approach. This is the wrong policy and it is the wrong process; yet the majority is willing to do everything possible to pass this bill, even over the objections of the American people.

Just recently, CNN had a poll that showed 73 percent of Americans across the country would like to scrap the bill or start all over; yet now we are being told the Democrat leadership may deem the bill passed without Members of Congress even voting on it. That is un-American. It ignores the democratic process.

Madam Speaker, we need an up-or-down vote. If Congress passes this bill without even a vote on it, the American people will be outraged, and rightfully so. There is a better way. Let's go to work on it.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Madam Speaker, just when we thought we had heard enough, seen enough, and paid enough, the big insurance companies are at it again. Seniors are paying more for prescriptions, home values plummet, savings and retirement accounts disappear, and millions lose homes, jobs, and their health care. But that didn't stop the big health insurance companies from announcing premium increases of nearly 40 percent.

Look, Madam Speaker, these companies have some impudence. They have to be stopped. Deny, deny, deny. They deny coverage. They deny claims. They deny care. And last week the CEOs came to Washington. It is not enough that we have to dodge their lobbyists in the Halls of Congress, but they came to town, staying at the Ritz on your premium dollars, and now they want to deny the American people quality, affordable, and accessible health care.

They know we are in the home stretch, and they won't stop at anything. They will stop at nothing to keep us from clamping down on their practices. But we are going to stop them. Let's deny them. Let's vote them off the island. I am ready to do it.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. CARTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, words that strike fear in the heart of every American are, "I'm from the Federal Government, and I'm here to help you."

We have a bill here that people can't read; they are not given the opportunity to understand. We have smoke screens everywhere, backroom deals being made that nobody knows what they are, all from the Federal Government that is here to help you.

We are going to take over your health care, take over about one-sixth of the economy, and "We're from the Federal Government, and we're here to help you."

By the way, we are even going to push this through the House of Representatives without a vote, so you don't have to worry about whether your Representative stands up for your rights or not. Is this the kind of democracy we want?

This is a bad bill. Give us a straight vote, be straight with the American people, and let's let the American people know that that man who says "We're here to help you" is not going to get in their back pocket.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, we have been talking about health care reform for nearly a century, and certainly inaction is no longer acceptable. The American people voted for and demand reform. They deserve our support.

Health insurance reform is about cost. These reforms slow the growth of health care spending and make health care insurance more affordable for everyone while reducing our deficit.

Health insurance reform is about coverage. These reforms will cover nearly all Americans, including those with preexisting conditions, and will not drop you if you get sick.

Health insurance reform is about competition. It repeals antitrust exemptions for insurance companies and brings them into a regulated marketplace to bring down prices for families and small businesses.

Health insurance reform is about care. These reforms eliminate copays for yearly checkups and screenings and ensure that our seniors have access to prescription drugs that they can actually afford.

Health insurance reform returns control to mothers, to fathers, to grandparents, and families, where it belongs, not with insurance companies, not with government.

#### HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. WALDEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I was a small business owner with my wife for nearly 22 years and I served on a hospital board, and I support reforming the health care system. In fact, I have offered up legislation to do that and supported other bills, but the way that this process is being mismanaged and misrun today is not the way to do health care reform. There isn't the transparency the American people deserve and that is now being denied by those in charge.

We are reading in the press that the Senate bill, with all of its barnacles on it, may pass this House without ever having a stand-up "yes" or "no" vote. That is outrageous.

And what does that bill do and what do these bills do? They whack Medicare \$500 billion. Thirty-eight thousand seniors in my district run the risk of losing the Medicare Advantage policies that they have.

This is not the way to do health care reform. You should scrap the bill and start over on a bipartisan basis.

I had two amendments to deal with rural health care issues adopted unanimously in the Energy and Commerce Committee, both of which, after the committee passed the bill out of the committee itself, were stripped out somewhere between the committee and the House floor, and the Democrats wouldn't even let me offer those amendments on the House floor again.

Stop this process. Let's do it right.

#### STIMULUS AND ECONOMIC INDICATORS

(Mr. ALTMIRE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ALTMIRE. Madam Speaker, I continue to hear my friends on the other side of the aisle refer to the stimulus bill as a failed policy, apparently in the belief that if you say it over and over again it will be true. But it's not true, not by a long shot.

Last year at this time, the stock market was at 6,500 and today it is at 10,600. One year ago, during the first quarter of 2009, GDP came in at a staggering 6 percent decline, but in the last quarter of 2009 it rose almost 6 percent. And monthly job losses, while not where we want them to be, are literally 20 times better than they were a year ago today.

Some may say this would have happened anyway and that the stimulus had nothing to do with it, but I would ask my colleagues, Madam Speaker, to consider that would be quite a coincidence, don't you think, for all those economic indicators to begin such a dramatic turnaround at precisely the time the stimulus passed. Quite a coincidence indeed.

#### SUNSHINE WEEK

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1